# WITHIN OUR BORDERS

Alberta's Mothers' Allowance
Provincial Mines Director
Fish and Game Branch
Film and Photographic Branch

VOL. 3 EDMONTON, NOVEMBER 15, 1950 No. 6


# The Alberta Mothers' Allowance Act

## *Widows or Deserted Mothers Are Provided Financial Aid To Help Feed, Clothe and Educate Their Children by This Welfare Legislation*

The purpose of the Mothers' Allowance Act is to help needy mothers to bring up their children in a family group. The act recognizes that a mother's care is essential to the well-being of her children and mothers' allowance is regarded as a basic welfare service.

**The Act provides financial aid for needy widows with children up to the age of 16 years or children between the ages of 16 and 18 years who are attending school regularly and making satisfactory progress. It provides also for the wife of a man committed to a mental hospital under the Mental Diseases Act, for a woman who has been deserted for three years or more, and for a woman who meets other requirements under the legislation. The husband must have been a resident of Alberta at the time of his death, committal or act of desertion, and the wife must, of course, have a child or children under the ages referred to above.**

### Improvements Made

Alberta's Mothers' Allowance Act was passed in April, 1919, and the first payments to eligible mothers were made one month later. Since that time various amendments to the act have been passed, all of which have liberalized eligibility requirements, increased rates of benefits and extended services. For example, the allowance covering the extra two years for children making satisfactory progress in school was added in 1946. In 1947 complete health services were added for recipients of mothers' allowance and their dependents. Provision for signing reciprocal agreements with other provinces was made in 1948 and two substantial changes were made the following year when the share of the municipality was reduced from 25% to 20% of the payments made and an additional allowance up to a maximum of $10 per month was provided entirely by the Provincial Government.

### 17,000 Cheques Last Year

During 1949 approximately 17,000 cheques were mailed out to needy mothers and their dependents. At the end of July, 1950, there were 1,469 mothers receiving the allowance. They had a total of 3,103 children. Total of all payments including basic allowance plus additional or cost-of-living-bonus was $69,090.50 for the month of July.

Total amount paid under the Mothers' Allowance Act during the fiscal year 1948-1949 was $650,692 of which the municipalities concerned paid $161,900. Cost of administration during the same year including salaries of officials, clerks, stenographers, postage and other [illegible] was [illegible].

There is no doubt that this expenditure represents an exceedingly worthwhile investment in the welfare of the people concerned. Indeed the benefits accrue to the Province generally. Apart from the humanitarian aspect of assisting mothers with the burden of raising their families it is obvious that the children will grow into better citizens because of the opportunities they enjoy under the plan. Mothers' allowance is a preventive social measure in the very best sense of the term because by it, homes are kept intact and the security of family life is safe-guarded.

Administration of the Act is the responsibility of the superintendent of mothers' allowances acting under the minister of public welfare. Application for an allowance may be made direct to the superintendent, but the usual procedure is to make application to the inspector of the municipality in which the applicant lives. An investigation into the circumstances of the case is made and a report is forwarded to the superintendent who assesses the need of the applicant, sets the amount of the allowance, and then recommends

(See Mothers' Allowance on Page Two)

The Mothers' Allowance Act provides optical treatment for qualified recipients.

Shown above is a mother who uses a portion of her allowance to provide food for her family.

Dental treatment is another important service provided by the act. (Alberta Government Photographs)

# Provincial Mines Director Supervises Safety of Mines

*(This is the seventh of a series of portrait articles on members of the Alberta Government Public Service. It is felt that to know members of the service is to know something more of the Government Services provided for the public. Mr. Crawford is one of many hundreds of Civil Servants who have made the Public Service their career).*

In this richest coal province of all Canada, John Crawford, director of mines in the department of mines and minerals, holds one of the most responsible posts in the Alberta public service.

Mining is a broad term, for it includes surface as well as sub-surface operations. Therefore, not only the 210 coal mines come within his scope but also a large number of quarries of sand, gravel, shale and all such.

**Mr. Crawford's administration covers also the plants where briquetting, coking and other processing is carried on, and the inspection of all electrical installations used in or about these plants and at the mines, whether on the surface or below. He supervises the daily safety of some 10,000 persons employed by the mining industry. This outline helps visualize a portion of his responsibilities.**

Of course, accidents will happen and do, often with tragic results. When they do it is the duty of the director of mines to organize an investigation to ascertain the cause of the disaster and by this means assure, so far as possible, that there shall be no repetition in that or any other Alberta mine.

### A Recognized Mining Authority

The report of the mines division, a substantial volume which Mr. Crawford prepares for his department each year, is published in book form. It goes to mining engineers, officials and students all over the American continent and beyond. It is regarded as part of their "required reading", for John Crawford is considered a leading mining authority.

He has represented Alberta for the past six years at all interprovincial mines ministers' committee meetings in Canada, and last year he was designated by the department of labor at Ottawa as the Dominion's sole representative on an international committee on coal mining which met in the international labor offices at Geneva.

John Crawford studied at technical mining schools in Scotland. He continued his pursuits in that science in the U.S. and Alberta. His introduction to practical mining was in Scotland and in 1910 he moved to Nova Scotia where he gained experience in underground submarine mining methods. Two years later Mr. Crawford came to Alberta and worked first as a mine examiner in various mines.

**JOHN CRAWFORD** (Alberta Government Photograph)

### Held Many Mining Positions

Mr. Crawford entered the public service in 1926 when he was appointed district inspector of mines. He went back for a time to commercial mining as manager of mines at Coleman and later at Mercoal.

In 1937 he returned to the public service as district inspector and was promoted chief inspector of mines in 1944. When the department of lands and mines was re-organized in 1949 he was promoted to his present position, director of the mining division, in the department of mines and minerals. Mr. Crawford holds various mining certificates in four provinces.

Though firmly rooted in Alberta, Mr. Crawford is intensely interested in the promotion of coal mining in all Canada so that the Dominion may become self sufficient in regard to fuel requirements. For this program he is chairman of educational and vocational training of the western section, Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. He also is a member of the Association of Professional Engineers of Alberta, a past professional member of the American Society of Engineers, the American Association of Engineers, and the technical advisory committee of the Alberta Research Council.

# Mothers' Allowance

(Continued from Page One)

to the minister that such allowance be granted. Contact is maintained by the municipality with the beneficiaries in the district, and any change in status which affects their eligibility is reported to the superintendent. Such changes are carefully evaluated and, if necessary, adjustments in rate of allowance follows.

### Some Costs Shared

The Province pays, in the first instance, the total cost of the allowances, but the municipality in which the husband of the applicant had residence at the time of his death, committal to a mental institution or his desertion, is required to refund 20 percent of the amount paid out.

The question of eligibility has already been referred to, but under this heading it might be added that a widow who, at the time of her husband's death, had a legally adopted child or children under the specified age limits is also eligible. A woman who has been divorced or legally separated cannot qualify, but needy mothers who are not eligible under the terms of the Mothers' Allowance Act may be given assistance under statutory provisions.

In all cases the applicant must be of good character and worthy of the custody of her children. In other words, she must be considered by the superintendent to be a proper case to receive assistance.

### Increased Education

An examination of the 1946 amendment (whereby the allowance may be continued for two years after the sixteenth birthday of any child making satisfactory progress in school) will readily indicate its wisdom. Competition on the labor market is growing keener, and so it is increasingly important that young people looking for work shall be as well trained as possible. Those two extra years should allow the child to complete high school, and as a result, he is more able to assume at least a part of the responsibility for younger members of the family.

Further to this point, it is not always possible for a boy or a girl of 16 to find employment of any kind. Under such circumstances they become an added burden upon the resources of the mother, and worse than that, having nothing better to do, it is possible they would find plenty of time to get into trouble. By continuing the allowance, provision is made for fitting the child better to take his place in society and at the same time reducing the chances that he or she will become juvenile delinquents.

### Requirements Outlined

There is no requirements as to nationality of the applicant, but the husband must have been a resident of Alberta. Unless permission to move is granted the beneficiary must continue to live in the Province and within the boundaries of the municipality liable for part payment of the allowance. As already stated the 1948 amendment provides for reciprocal agreements to be completed with other provinces in respect of payments to mothers changing their residence, but as yet no other province has taken advantage of this provision.

There are no specified limits on real or personal property or amount of income from other sources. However, these factors are considered when the applicant's need is assessed. Such a plan provides the flexibility essential to changes in real values and in overall cost of living.

The same applies to the additional allowance, authorized by the amendment of 1949, which is borne entirely by the Province. While the maximum amount payable under this amendment is $10, the actual payment depends largely upon all the circumstances found to apply in each individual case.

Family allowance paid wholly by the Dominion government to eligible children under 16 years of age, is not considered in any way whatsoever in assessing the need of a mother and her dependent children.

### $47.03 Per Month

In the last complete fiscal year the average allowance received by a mother was $47.03 per month. On the basis of children benefitting, the average for the same period was $22.27 per month.

**In addition to financial aid, recipients of mothers' allowance and their dependents in Alberta are provided with a most complete health service at no cost to them. When their application is approved, they receive with their first cheque a card bearing their name and the names of their dependents. This card entitles them to free hospital, medical, dental and optical services, together with the necessary drugs while the patient is in hospital only. Half of the cost where new dentures are required is also paid by the department.**

The department advises that whenever any of these services are required, it is well for the patient to contact the family doctor first so that he may advise them as to the best procedure to follow.

Provisions already outlined help certain mothers in Alberta. More than that, they enable the children to grow up as a family, well nourished and clothed, assured of proper health care and guided by the love of a mother.

# Provincial Fish and Game Branch

## This Government Branch Administers Regulations Concerning Conservation of Alberta's Wild Life and it Seeks Public Co-operation to Fulfill Program

Every fall thousands of hunters from near and far enjoy Alberta's game resources. The conservation of these important resources is the responsibility of the provincial fish and game branch of the Department of Lands and Forests.

**The objective of the fish and game branch is to perpetuate those species of wild life which now make Alberta a mecca for sportsmen. Leadership and direction in pursuit of this objective must, of course, come from the Government, but the co-operation of the public is an essential part of any such effort.**

Conservation of wild life is public business. If every individual follows the rules and helps to see that his neighbor does likewise, Alberta's lakes and marshes, uplands and forests will continue to abound with game. If they do not, it may well be that the prairie chicken, the grouse, the partridge and pheasant, even ducks and geese, will go the way of the dodo or the whooping crane.

### Forest and Fisheries Officers Assist

Direct responsibility for administrating game regulations, designed to conserve our wild life resources, belongs to various types of officials. Provision is made for the employment of 14 uniformed game inspectors located in the central and southern part of the Province. In the west and northern timbered sections 130 forest officers are ex-officio game officers and as such enforce the regulations under the Game Act as a part of their regular duties. This eliminates duplication of responsibility which would be unavoidable if game inspectors were stationed in these areas. Fisheries officers also are ex-officio game administration personnel and act in their own territories.

There are, in addition, a limited number of honorary game guardians. These men carry out conservation work in special localities such as the Metis areas, or as officials of such organizations as Ducks Unlimited, who are directly concerned with problems relating to wild life and conservation measures.

### Other Organizations Contribute

Work of the Fish and Game Association is of inestimable value and their co-operation is appreciated greatly by the branch. Members of such organizations realize fully the importance of enforcement and conservation from the standpoint of sportsmanship and ordinary good business. Finally, the R.C.M.P. carry out the provisions of The Game Act and Game Regulations, and in or out of season are always on the alert for infractions of the law.

There is much more to the problem than apprehending persons who will not follow the rules. Other duties of game inspectors and administrative officials include checking on wild life population, killing predators such as coyotes, cougars and wolves, live-trapping beaver where these animals are found to be causing damage to farm crops or other property, supervising and assisting in the job of moving deer and other types of big game from one part of the Province to another. They must be on hand to sell various big game, game bird and fishing licenses. They issue permits for the export of big game trophies and furs, collect fur tax, compile maps of traplines and take affidavits in connection with the payment of bounties.

### Interprovincial Conventions

These are some of the chief duties of our game officers, indicating that they are very busy men. Assistance from sportsmen and the public generally is needed to make their work easier and more effective in preserving Alberta's wildlife of today.

In addition to other species, ducks and geese always have been present in reasonable good supply in the Province. These are migratory game birds. Varieties of geese are the Canada and the wavey; chief varieties of ducks are mallard, pintail, canvasback and teal. Since these varieties spend only part of their lives in Alberta, conservation measures must be shared by the United States and Mexico where the birds winter. To this end the three countries have signed an international convention designed to give sportsmen of all three countries the continuing benefits of good hunting. Even among the Canadian provinces inter-provincial conventions are held regularly and efforts are made towards attaining uniformity in game regulations.

### Advisory Council

In Alberta an advisory council has been set up to assist officials of the game branch formulate regulations. This council is composed of representatives of the department, the Alberta Fish and Game Association, the farmers of Alberta, the Indians, as well as trappers and outfitters and the University of Alberta. Reports and surveys are studied by the advisory council and as a result they make recommendations to the Government. The game regulations for each year are based on these recommendations.

Chief regulations have to do with the length of season, bag limits, license fees, type of guns, and other factors. The season for migratory birds is set at Ottawa this year at fifty-two days in any one zone of the Province. Sunday shooting is prohibited in Alberta as in the majority of other Canadian provinces. Automatic guns and pump guns are allowed, but the capacity of each is limited to three shells. Bag limits are fairly constant from year to year. Farmers receive special consideration if it can be proven that their crops are being damaged by migrating birds. In this case the farmer (who may get the help of as many as six others) is given a special permit to shoot the birds before the regular season opens.

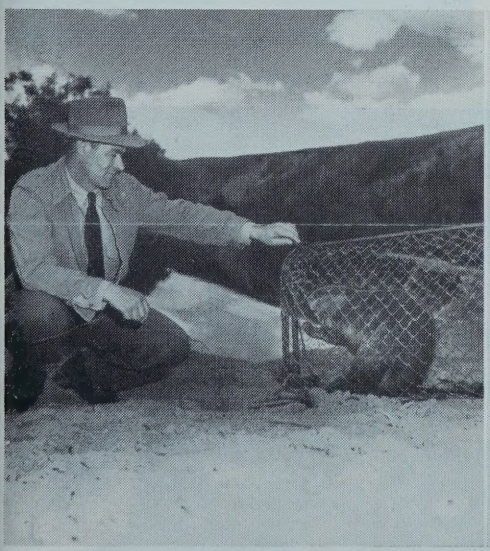
### Pheasant Hatchery Operated

In addition to native birds, two species of game birds have been imported to Alberta. These are the Hungarian partridge and the Ring-neck pheasant. To assist propogation of the latter the Province maintains a hatchery at Brooks. (See Within Our Borders, May 15, 1950).

A new departure was made recently when 400 young pheasants were shipped by air to Peace River. Pheasants are one of the finest of all sporting birds, and it is expected that they will thrive in their new home, adding immeasurably to the challenge presented hunters in the Peace River District.

**Surveys made this summer indicate that Alberta's migratory bird population is down approximately seven percent. This is not considered alarming for a single year, but if the trend continued, drastic reductions in bag limits and length of season would be called for. The overall picture is good with most game in the Province in a very healthy condition. The chief danger comes from those who persist in violating regulations made for the benefit of good sportsmen, as well as for those who by their selfish actions fail to qualify as sportsmen.**

The solution lies in public co-operation for which game officials urgently appeal.



Moving live animals to various parts of the Province is done by the game branch. Shown above is Game Officer George Senz, of Vermilion, with a trapped beaver.

D. E. Forsland, superintendent of game, is a former R.C.M.P. sergeant and has been with the branch 11 years.

Game officials recently shipped 400 young pheasants to the Peace River country by air. Fish and Game Commissioner E. S. Huestis, right, discusses the shipment with Pilot Phil Brochu.

(Alberta Government Photographs)

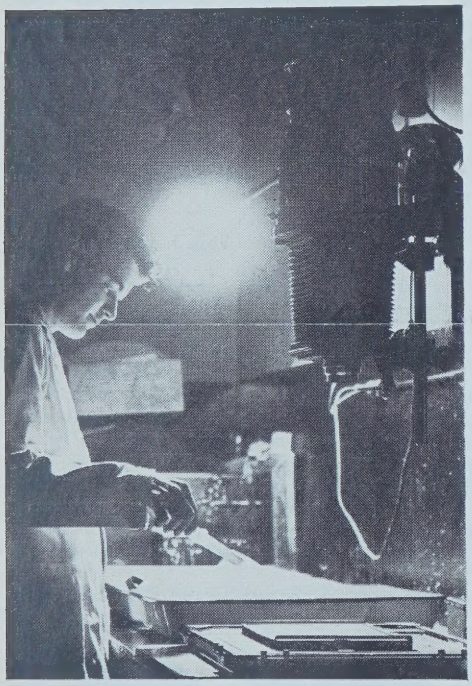
# A WITHIN OUR BORDERS PICTURE PAGE

Alberta Vacation
Autumn in ALBERTA
GREEN ACRES
Produced by The Film and Photographic Branch Department of Economic Affairs

Films produced by the film and photographic branch.

Shooting movies at an industrial site.

Branch Director Ken Hutchinson, left, gives assignment for Within Our Borders to Photographers Mel Jones and Chuck Ross.



Darkroom technician, William Marsden.

## Photographic Branch Publicizes Alberta

The Provincial film and photographic branch is one of the most important media used to obtain publicity for Alberta. Each year this agency prints about 12,000 photographs which are reproduced in leading publications in Canada, United States, the United Kingdom and Europe.

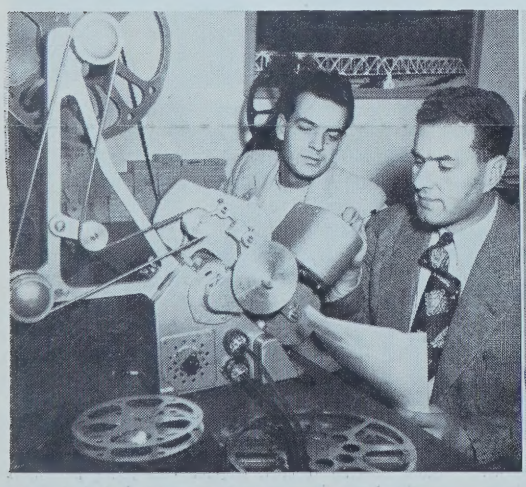
Government photographers cover the important developments in Alberta's industrial, economic and cultural development. They continually take new shots of the Province's scenic beauty. All this material is available to the various news organizations.

The 2½-year-old branch has produced five colored films which are used for educational purposes. Probably the most widely circulated is "Alberta Vacation," a tourist film. In various stages of production are three additional films.

Film strips also are produced by the film and photographic branch—"Teaching Mathematics," and "Home and School Organization" have been completed. Two others, "The School For Nursing Aides" and "Water and Sewage Installation Small Town" will be produced in the immediate future.

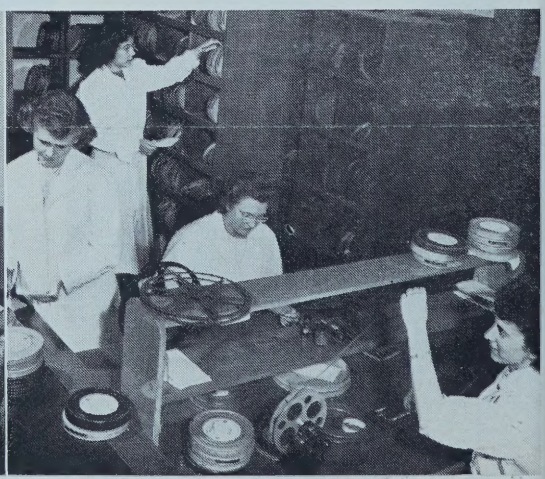
The branch operates the Provincial film library and about 30,000 shipments of films are made yearly to educational institutions and other recognized organizations. More than 200 hand tinted enlargements are distributed annually to government public buildings, tourist bureaus, and certain commercial offices.

An oil scene is tinted by Elsie Dezman.



Branch Director Hutchinson, right, and Larry Mitanski, cameraman, edit a film.

Negatives are filed by Olga Muz.



Film library attendants left to right are: Marjorie Olson, Mildred McGuire, Margaret Harris, and Mary Bodnarchuk.
(Alberta Government Photographs)

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2025 with funding from
Legislative Assembly of Alberta - Alberta Legislature Library